Uniformed Personnel & Civilian Employee Travel & Transportation Changes

Joint Services Relocation Training Conference

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The only difference between this place and the Titanic is … they had a band!

FY 2003 Authorization Act

- Amended the law (10 U.S.C. §2634) to allow for POV storage when a member (***NOT a civilian employee***) is ordered to a non-foreign permanent duty station in a location (such as certain places in Alaska) and a POV cannot be shipped there
  - Formerly ONLY for PCS to a foreign area to which a POV couldn't be shipped or sent TDY to a contingency operation
  - MAP Item 76-02 at the Office of the Deputy Undersecretary of Defense (Personnel & Readiness) for signature & implementation
    - Currently at General Counsel 'in review'
  - Will affect JFTR, pars. U5464, U5466-A, U5468-E1, U5472-B, U5476-A, and Appendix A

FY 2003 Authorization Act (cont'd)

- Amended the law (10 U.S.C. §705(b)(2)) to allow an enlisted person, extending a tour and selecting a trip to Home of Record (HOR) to elect transportation to another place if not more costly
  - Formerly only HOR was permitted
  - MAP Item 67-02 at the Office of the Deputy Undersecretary of Defense (Personnel & Readiness) for signature & implementation
    - Currently at General Counsel 'in review'
  - Will affect JFTR, par. U7305

FY 2003 Authorization Act (cont'd)

- Amended the law (37 U.S.C. §411b) to enable continued deferral of Consecutive Overseas Tour (COT) (and IPCOT) leave travel if deployed on a Contingency Operation
  - Until not later than one year after the end of the member's duty ICW the contingency operation
  - MAP Item 70-02 at the Office of the Deputy Undersecretary of Defense (Personnel & Readiness) for signature & implementation
    - Currently at General Counsel 'in review'
  - Will affect JFTR, par. U7200-B

FY 2003 Authorization Act (cont'd)

- Amended the law (37 U.S.C. §554(a)) to allow for shipment of 2 POVs on behalf of a member who is dead, injured, ill, or absent for more than 29 days in a missing status
  - First 2-POV change
  - MAP Item 77-02 at the Office of the Deputy Undersecretary of Defense (Personnel & Readiness) for signature & implementation
    - Currently at General Counsel 'in review'
  - Will affect JFTR, par. U5455-E

FY 2002 Authorization Act Not Implemented

- Shipping a POV on a CONUS to CONUS PCS (10 U.S.C §2634(h)(1))
  - NOT YET IMPLEMENTED (nor likely soon!)
  - Requires a cost ‘advantage’ to the government
  - Another amendment to the law being proposed to make the authority ‘workable’
    - Current authority involves alternate transportation for member and/or dependents; EXTREMELY difficult to implement

Other ‘Interesting Stuff’

- Clarifications about TLA:
  - Not payable to retirees (There never has been any authority in JFTR to pay TLA to a retiring member, but ‘inquiring minds’ caused the clarifying change to be added in the March JFTR change to par. U9200.)
  - Has been payable under a variety of circumstances involving the inability to prepare meals at home due to Gov’t quarters renovation, utility outages, absence of a stove and/or refrigerator (JFTR, par, U9207-F)
    - Events like typhoons, hurricanes, not ‘blown fuses’

Other ‘Interesting Stuff’ (cont’d)

- Junior enlisted personnel weight allowances increased on 1 January 2003 for those ***with orders issued on/after 1 January 2003***

PCS	With Depns	W/o Depns
E-4 (all)	8,000	7,000
E-3 to E-1	8,000	5,000

  - TDY up to 400 pounds
- In transportation, the terms ‘indirect’ and ‘circuitous’ have the same meaning
  - ‘Barracks’ lawyer issue that JTR said ‘indirect’ is cured in the June JTR change to JFTR & JTR

Other ‘Interesting Stuff’ (cont’d)

- PCS per diem increased from $50/day to $85 (and then stays with ‘Standard CONUS rate’) (eff 1/1/***03***)
  - Dependents move from $37.50/$25 to $63.75/$42.50
  - ‘Flat rate’ computation method still used for uniformed personnel
    - Civilian employees use ‘Lodgings Plus’
- Service written material that implements JFTR and/or JTR ***MUST*** come through PDTATAC
  - DoDD 5154.29
  - Requirement is largely ignored which contributes to the ‘problem’ and not the ‘solution’
- OBTW - “Indirect” and “circuitous” mean the same thing for transportation

Other ‘Interesting Stuff’ (cont’d)

- ‘Paper’ tickets
  - Becoming a ‘thing of the past’
  - No longer issued ‘free’ by most airlines/CTOs/ TMCs
  - Travelers can pay for them from personal funds if they want them
  - Gov’t reimbursement for them usually limited to international travel when non-US carriers don’t e-ticket
- PCS orders for civilian employees (CONUS TO CONUS)
  - Before each order involving HHG transportation, computation of commuted rate and actual expense (GBL) cost must be done
    - ‘Generic’ one size fits all cost comparison not legal
- Evacuation Allowances from OCONUS Locations
  - Can now be extended beyond 180 days (as of 25 April 2003)

PCS ALLOWANCES Comparison

- Uniformed and civilian
  - Member/employee travel (paid differently)
    - Now both use the same per diem rate for POC travel ($85/day)
  - HHG or mobile home shipment
    - varying weights for uniformed personnel; more options for uniformed personnel
  - Dependent travel and transportation (paid differently)
    - Now uses same per diem rate for POC travel ($85/day)
  - Miscellaneous Expense Allowance (MEA) vs. DLA (paid differently; different payment ceilings)

PCS ALLOWANCES Comparison (cont'd)

- Uniformed and civilian (cont'd)
  - Vehicle shipment (no optional storage for civilian employees)
    - Multiple vehicles possible (but shouldn't be likely) in CONUS
  - Temporary lodging/meals expenses at old and/or new permanent duty stations (paid differently, and within uniformed services - different (TLE) in 48 & DC vs. overseas (TLA))
  - Leave travel between overseas assignments (similar)
  - Leave travel while overseas (both uniformed personnel & civilian employees now have FEML and R&R travel)

PCS ALLOWANCES Comparison (cont'd)

- Uniformed and civilian (cont'd)
  - Buy/sell residence/property management (civilians only)
  - Overseas salary supplements (COLA/OHA/LQA/Post Allowance/ Station Allowance)
    - different functions, different amounts
    - State Department for civilian employees in foreign countries
    - OPM for civilian employees in non-foreign OCONUS areas
  - Taxes on travel/transportation allowances
    - Most uniformed service allowances not taxed (CONUS COLA is an exception); civilian allowances significantly taxed
  - For references, see the FAQ #28 on our website @ ***http://www.dtic.mil/perdiem/faqpcs.html***

Future

- FY 2004 National Defense Authorization Act
  - Lots on the ‘wish list’
  - NO PREDICTIONS here today since neither house of congress has ‘marked’ its version of the authorization act
  - BEWARE early predictions/reports of the press that may only be reporting action by one or the other house
    - Joint (Congressional House & Senate) Committee report is what you’re waiting to see!

More Information

- Per Diem, Travel and Transportation Allowance Committee (PDTATAC) is on the web for JFTR & JTR
  - ***http://www.dtic.mil/perdiem/***
    - Regs (and monthly changes) are in Adobe and can be copied is usable format
  - Links to other sites; Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)
  - ALL per diem rates, other uniformed personnel allowance rates, etc.
  - YOU can subscribe to the website and receive ‘alert’ e-mails when new information is posted
    - See “Mailing List” on the ‘long blue band’ on the website

Wrap Up

- Any traveler's BIGGEST need is:
  - **CORRECT AND TIMELY INFORMATION!!**
- **READ APPENDIX A IN JFTR & JTR!!**
- ***I suggest*** travelers be informed by knowledgeable personnel using JFTR, or JTR/FTR/DSSR, and Service implementing regs
  - JFTR is statutory regulation for uniformed services
  - JTR implements FTR (& DSSR, in part) for DoD civilian employees
- ***Subscriptions to JFTR/JTR (paper or CD ROM)***
  - ***http://www.dtic.mil/perdiem/trvlregs.html#ordering***
- Bill Tirrell, Sr. 703-325-1437 (DSN 312-221); Fax 2945
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